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PATENT

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Applicants:	Biftu, et al.	
Int. Appln. No:	PCT/US2004/014642	
Int. Filing Date:	10 May 2004	
US Appln. No.:	To Be Assigned	Case No.: 21404P
Filed:	Concurrently Herewith	
For:	3-AMINO-4-PHENYLBUTANOIC ACID DERIVATIVES AS DIPEPTIDYL PEPTIDASE INHIBITORS FOR THE TREATMENT OR PREVENTION OF DIABETES	

Art Unit:

Examiner:

Commissioner for Patents  
 P. O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

The above-identified case is a PCT application entering the US National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 and Article 39(1)(a) of the Patent Cooperation Treaty. Applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments prior to prosecution of the subject application. Any additional fees associated with this Amendment may be charged to Merck Deposit Account No. 13-2755.

Please amend this application as follows:

**Amendments to the Specification** are reflected on page 2 of this response.  
**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected on page 3 of this response. **Remarks** begin on page 15 of this response.